



CROSSROADS
COMMUNITY
CHURCH

“FIRST THINGS FIRST” RENEWAL PT. 11

Keith Boyer, Lead Pastor

NEH. 13:6-8a, 25a (NLT) I was not in Jerusalem at that time, for I had returned to the king in the thirty-second year of the reign of King Artaxerxes of Babylon, though I later received his permission to return. When I arrived back in Jerusalem and learned the extent of this evil I confronted them and called down curses on them I beat some of them and pulled out their hair.

HOW TO KEEP THE FIRE BURNING

1) RETURN _____

NEH. 13:4-12 (NLT) Eliashib the priest, had converted a large storage room and placed it at Tobiah's disposal. The room had previously been used for storing the tithes... When I arrived back in Jerusalem and learned that Eliashib had provided Tobiah with a room in the courtyards of the Temple of God—I became very upset and threw all of Tobiah's belongings from the room. Then I demanded that the rooms be purified... I also discovered that the Levites had not been given what was due them, so they and the singers who were to conduct the worship services had all returned to work their fields. I immediately confronted the leaders and demanded, "Why has the Temple of God been neglected?" Then I called all the Levites back again and restored them to their proper duties. And once more all the people of Judah began bringing their tithes of grain, new wine, and olive oil to the Temple storerooms.

MAL. 3:7a-10

MATT. 6:21 (NIV) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

DEUT. 14:23c (LB) The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.

2) REMEMBER _____

NEH. 13:15-22 (NLT) I saw men of Judah treading out their winepresses on the Sabbath. They were also bringing in grain, loading it on donkeys, and bringing their wine, grapes, figs, and all sorts of produce to Jerusalem and selling it on the Sabbath... So I confronted the nobles of Judah. "Why are you profaning the Sabbath in this evil way?" I asked. "Wasn't it just this sort of thing that your ancestors did that caused our God to bring all this trouble upon us and our city? Now you are bringing even more wrath upon Israel by permitting the Sabbath to be desecrated in this way!" Then I commanded that the gates of Jerusalem should be shut as darkness fell every Friday evening, not to be opened until the Sabbath ended. Then I commanded the Levites to purify themselves and to guard the gates in order to preserve the holiness of the Sabbath.

✓ Rest your _____

✓ Renew your _____

EX. 20:9-10 (TEV) You have six days in which to do your work, but the seventh day is a day of rest dedicated to Me!

3) REJECT _____

NEH. 13:23-26 (NLT) About the same time I realized that some of the men of Judah had married women from Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. Even worse, half their children spoke in the language of Ashdod or some other people and could not speak the language of Judah at all. So I confronted them and called down curses on them. I beat some of them and pulled out their hair. I made them swear before God that they would not let their children intermarry with the pagan people of the land. "Wasn't this exactly what led King Solomon of Israel into sin?" I demanded. "There was no king from any nation who could compare to him, and God loved him and made him king over all Israel. But even he was led into sin by his foreign wives.

MATT. 6:33 (NLT) and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.

Digging Deeper: Small Group Questions...

- Share a flat tire experience.
- How would you have responded if you were Nehemiah?
- In the message, Keith said that, "tithing/giving isn't a money issue, it's a heart issue." What does that mean?
- He also said, "What the tithe is to our finances, the Sabbath is to our soul." Both come back to trusting God. Which do you struggle with the most? Why?
- Have you opened the door to compromise in some areas of your life? What are you going to do about it?

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